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COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION
Thirty-fifth session
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Agenda item 8

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON
ITS THIRTY-FIFTH SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Hisham ELZIMAITY (Egypt)

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997

Section 7B. Africa: critical economic situation, recovery
and development

1. At its 15th meeting, on 25 May 1995, the Committee considered section 7B, Africa: critical economic situation, recovery and development, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Discussion

2. A number of delegations welcomed the submission by the Secretary-General of a separate section on Africa: critical economic situation, recovery and development as requested by the General Assembly. Other delegations recalled their reservation on the question. Some delegations expressed the view that section 7B should comprise all the Africa-related activities of the Secretariat. Other delegations expressed concern that creation of a separate section 7B might diminish flexibility in and adequate accountability and control over the implementation of mandated activities, and supported the Secretary-General's view that a separate budget section was not desirable.

3. Many delegations stressed the importance of adhering strictly to the priorities set in the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, as revised, 1/ in particular, with regard to African economic recovery and relevant programmes, mainly programme 45. They emphasized that the proposed resources under section 7B did not adequately address the needs of Africa and felt that the resources allocated to the Secretariat units responsible for the implementation of programme 45 of the medium-term plan and for the contribution of the United Nations system to the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s were not sufficient and should be increased. They underlined, in that connection, the important role of the Secretary-General in the implementation of subprogramme 1, Mobilization of resources, and in ensuring that the organizations of the United Nations system integrated Africa as a priority in their programmes of activity.

4. Some delegations stressed that Member States were faced with increasing difficulty in providing incremental resources and that consequently resources for priority activities would have to be found through internal reallocation and efficiency gains.

5. Some delegations stated that there was a discrepancy between the titles of the subprogrammes and the description of the activities thereunder. They considered, for example, that the proposed scope of activities and resources under subprogramme 3 were insufficient to have an impact in raising awareness about African economic problems.

6. Some delegations considered that the allocation of resources between subprogrammes did not fully reflect priorities within programme 45 and that increased resources should have been allocated to subprogramme 2.

Conclusions and recommendations

7. While welcoming the efforts of the Secretary-General to rationalize the activities of the Organization, the Committee reaffirmed that priority should continue to be given to Africa: critical economic situation, recovery and development. The Committee therefore recommended to the General Assembly that it review the level of resources devoted to the implementation of activities related to Africa: critical economic situation, recovery and development, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 46/151 of 18 December 1991 and 49/142 of 23 December 1994, and taking into account the enormous needs of Africa.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/47/6/Rev.1).
